

NOTE: text amended to show  
charges in pending

NSC BRIEFING

1 December 1954

## SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

- I. Ouster of General Hinh; ~~highlights Bao Dai's growing~~  
~~tendency to throw in lot with Diem.~~
- A. Immediate cause of action presumably Hinh's statement to press he would return Saigon "whatever Bao Dai's decision may be."
  - B. Terms of dismissal decree, charging Hinh with disobedience, indicate Bao Dai abandoning earlier equivocal stand.
- II. Army-government reconciliation will not result automatically; Hinh capable of causing further trouble.
- A. Once stated he would oppose Diem politically if fired.
  - B. Recently boasted he could carry out coup from Paris by telegram.
  - C. Reportedly had systematically begun putting his own men in as unit commanders before leaving for Paris.
  - D. Tension within army still high despite smoothing over of recent pro-Diem demonstration.
  - E. General Ely recently voiced suspicion that acting chief of staff Vy had sworn loyalty to Hinh; expressed fear Diem-Hinh feud might be replaced by Diem-Vy dispute.

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F. Vy does in fact lack Diem's confidence.

III. Actually, Hinh is political lightweight, but French backing could offset this.

A. French officials who have backed Hinh could switch to other anti-Diem champions.

B. French army officers have vested interest in continuance of anti-Diem feeling in army, since Diem favors US takeover of training responsibility.

C. Recent official French broadcast from Saigon criticized Diem, warned Viets against "heavy hand" of US; Vietnam army radio ~~FOLLOWED SAME LINE UNTIL~~ before and since Hinh's ~~DISMISSAL~~ departure, has followed same line.

IV. Meanwhile, Viet Minh making capital of chaos in south.

~~A. Viet Minh propagandists exploiting Vietnam army radio criticism of Diem as instance of US bolstering of unpopular government.~~

~~B. Viet Minh continuing to consolidate shadow government over much of southern Vietnam despite formal troop withdrawal.~~

NEW  
MATERIAL  
ON  
CARDS

~~SECRET~~